

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/920,745

**Q76471**

**REMARKS**

The claims in this application are directed to the non-elected subject matter of parent application 09/920,745.

The title and abstract have been amended in the same manner as in the parent application.

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sheldon I. Landsman*

Sheldon I. Landsman

Registration No. 25,430

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



**23373**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: July 8, 2003

**APPENDIX**

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE TITLE:**

The title is changed as follows:

PROCESS FOR PRODUCING N-VINYL COMPOUND POLYMER PROCESS FOR  
REDUCING MONOMER CONTENT IN N-VINYL COMPOUND POLYMERS

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-5 are canceled.

**IN THE ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE:**

The abstract is changed as follows:

~~A method for residual monomer diminution by which a residual monomer is speedily removed from an N-vinyl compound polymer or the like without posing a problem such as an increase in ash content; and a process for producing an N-vinyl compound polymer solution or powder which has a regulated pH and is free from a decrease in pH with time.~~

~~The method comprises adding an organic acid having a boiling point of 140°C or higher at ordinary pressure to an aqueous solution of an N-vinyl compound polymer. The process comprises adding an organic base to an aqueous N-vinyl compound polymer solution having a pH lower than 7.0 to thereby neutralize the solution and regulate the pH thereof. Those operations are conducted in a reaction vessel in which a gaseous phase is regulated so as to have an oxygen concentration of 5.0% by volume or lower.~~

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